

REMARKS

Applicants are herewith filing a Request for Continued Examination concurrently with the submission of the present response. Entry of these submission is respectfully requested.

Before addressing the specific grounds of rejection raised in the Final Office Action dated August 9, 2006, Applicants have amended paragraph [0001] of the specification to correct an obvious typographical error.

Applicants have cancelled Claim 15 – 20 and added new Claims 21 – 40. Support for these newly added Claims 21 – 40 is found throughout the instant application; See particularly paragraphs [0019] - [0021], [0024], [0025], [0030], [0033], [0038], [0066] – [0069] and FIGS. 5A – 5C. Since the newly added Claims 21 – 40 are fully supported, entry thereof is respectfully requested.

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as alleged obvious over the combined disclosures of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,394 to Mandelman et al., (hereinafter “Mandelman”), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0155275 to Divakaruni et al., (hereinafter “Divakaruni”), U.S. Patent No. 6,156,620 to Puchner et al., (hereinafter “Puchner”), U.S. Patent No. 5,940,717 to Rengarajan et al., (hereinafter “Rengarajan”), and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0155730 to Mukai et al., (hereinafter “Mukai”).

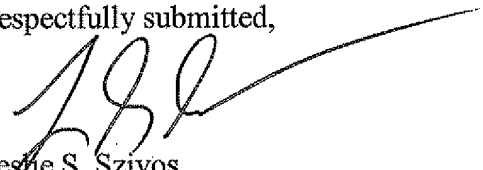
Applicants observe that since claims 15 – 20 have been cancelled, the obviousness rejection citing the above-mentioned references has been obviated.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combined cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed structures which are cited in newly added claims 21 – 40. Specifically, none of the references teaches or suggests the coexistence of at least a portion of a sidewall of a trench

isolation region that is void of any nitride liner AND at least a portion of a sidewall of the same or different trench isolation region on which a nitride liner is present in the same semiconductor structure.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the amended claims and consideration of new claims for allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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